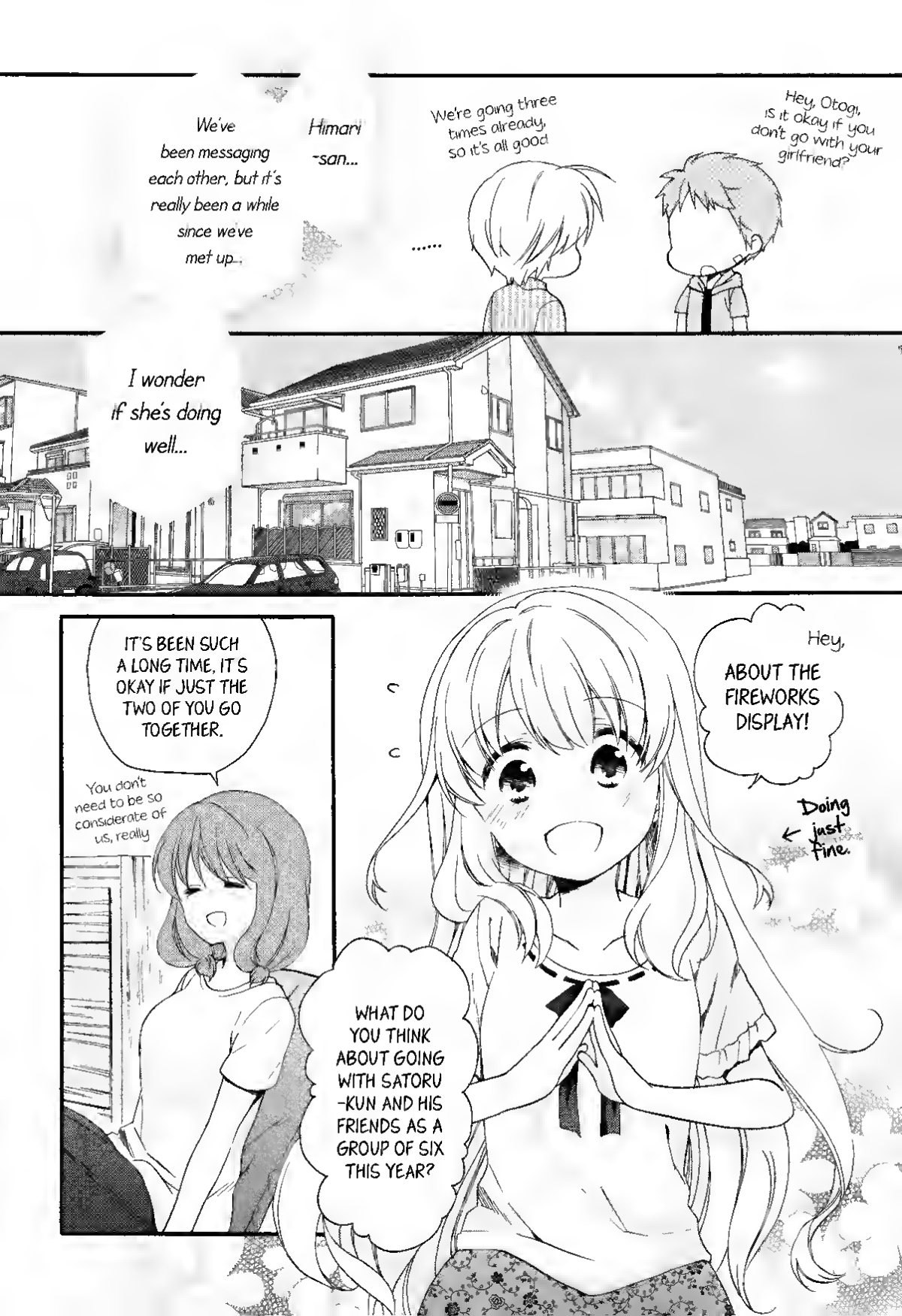
STEP.23

IT'S THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER!
POOLS ARE PACKED WITH FAMILIES AND COUPLES!
THIS HANDSOME COUPLE HERE...
I definitely wanted to bring my girlfriend along...
...SPEAKING OF WHICH,
KAI, HAVE YOU MET UP WITH ASHIHARA-SAN SINCE SUMMER BREAK STARTED?
HUH?
...WE HAVEN'T MET UP YET.
Since break started
WAIT, SERIOUSLY?! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'S BEEN?!
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.
GAME OVER
Eh- ah- ahh...
Gaaah, Kai, don't just stop moving!!

I GUESS... SINCE WE HADN'T DECIDED ON ANY PLANS,
I WAS FEELING UNSURE...
...THEN I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, KAI.
SUMMER MEANS... FIREWORKS DISPLAYS!
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
Food carts too!
TAKE THIS!
You had it in your shirt this whole time..?
A GROUP OF TWO GUYS AND A GIRL GOING TO WATCH FIREWORKS IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF YOUTH!!
Sounds great!
YOU JUST INVITED YOURSELF!
HAVING A BRAT LIKE YOU TAG ALONG WILL JUST INCITE THEIR WRATH.
thump
thump
But I wanna see Himarin and the giiirls...!
NAH, I THINK IT'D BE FUN GOING WITH EVERYONE TOO.
I'LL ASK HIMARI-SAN WHAT SHE THINKS FIRST.
KAI-SAMA!!


We've been messaging each other, but it's really been a while since we've met up...
Himari -san...
.....
We're going three times already, so it's all good
Hey, Otogi, is it okay if you don't go with your girlfriend?
I wonder if she's doing well...
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, IT'S OKAY IF JUST THE TWO OF YOU GO TOGETHER.
You don't need to be so considerate of us, really
Hey, ABOUT THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY!
Doing just fine.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GOING WITH SATORU -KUN AND HIS FRIENDS AS A GROUP OF SIX THIS YEAR?

SO I WANTED TO GO WITH SHUUKO-CHAN AND YAE-CHAN AGAIN THIS YEAR
I'M REALLY JUST ACTING SELFISH-
-LYYY?
Ah, looks like she really wants to go.
That's right Himari
IT'S NOT BEING CONSIDERATE...
WE WENT TOGETHER LAST YEAR
WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, THEN WE'LL DEFINITELY GO WITH YOU
HIMA-RIII!
FU FU FU FU FU FU
A SUMMER NIGHT...
FIRE-WORKS...
YU-KATA...

THIS SCENARIO'S GETTING ME ALL FIRED UP!
YOU GETTING FIRED UP RARELY ENDS WELL FOR US.
OUR PRACTICE FROM THE OTHER DAY MIGHT COME IN HANDY EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.
Kissing
WHAT WE PRAC-TI...
Ufufufu
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT!
IT WASN'T POSSIBLE EVEN WITH YAE-CHAN AS MY PARTNER!
That's right.
FOR HIMARI, IT'S PROBABLY AS SERIOUS AS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE, ISN'T IT?
EVEN FOR AN AVERAGE PERSON, KISSING IS A PRETTY SERIOUS AFFAIR.
Creation of the universe
HMM

IT'S DEFINITELY NOT NICE!!
I JUST THOUGHT OF A NICE IDEA.
THAT'S IT!
CLAP
Next day
40% OFF
AH...
twist
It's been a long time since I've seen Satoru-kun

It's hot

S-S-Sa-
SATORU-KUN, GOOD MORNING.
ba-dump
ba-dump
IT'S SHUUKO-CHAN'S FAULT THAT I'M SO UNUSUALLY CONSCIOUS OF HIM!!
Hi-
HIMARI-SAN.

A RE-HEARSAL?

B-BUT KI-KISSING IS STILL KISS-ING!!
Even if it's in-direct
INDIRECT KISSES DON'T COUNT.
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, PEOPLE KISS EACH OTHER BY ACCIDENT ALL THE TIME!!
THAT'S ONE UNLIKELY WORLD YOU'RE LIVING IN.
Get your perspective straight!
YES.
AS YOU ARE NOW, HIMARI, KISSING IS SIMPLY IM-POSSIBLE.
SO LET'S USE AN INDIRECT KISS AS PRACTICE FOR REAL KISSING.

BEEP
BU-
BUT THAT'S...
Oho
NICE TIMING
Reply message
From. Kai kun
Would it be okay if we went out tomorrow? Or do you have plans already ?
The The
THERE'S JUST NO WAY!!
...Now that we're actually together...
Himari!!!
Go enjoy yourself!

TSP trans Tauya - edit pip25 - clean Kiiragi Ayuzawa - redraw Psymatical - type Iui Deni

Urgh, I can see it already...
The extent of her imagination
collapse
If I were to kiss someone now...
...Also,
Welcome!
I wonder if... a rehearsal can even help at all...
It-
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE TALKED, I'M GETTING NERVOUS!!
...
...
Take as much time as you need!

UH... IS HOMEWORK GOING WELL?
YE-YEAH!
AH, ACTUALLY, NOT AT ALL!
LAST TIME I WENT TO SHUUKO-CHAN'S HOUSE TO DO HOMEWORK,
BUT WE ENDED UP GETTING INTO SOMETHING TOTALLY UNRELATED!
SOMETHING TOTALLY UNRELATED?
Aaah, I started rambling
YEAH, KI...
AAHH!!!
UMM... KI... KI...
KILOGRAM OR POUND, WHICH ONE WE PREFER!!
I SEE.

AH... THAT RE-MINDS ME...
GOING OFF OF THAT...
WAIT, SHE BROUGHT UP HER FRIENDS!
So second-year high schoolers still talk about that kind of thing...
Huh? He bought it?!
MEETING UP AT NIGHT IS LEWD?!
NO WAAAY, THAT'S LEWD, HE'S DEFINITE-LY PLANNING SOMETHING!
Ahaha
AND AT NIGHT, TOO!
MY EX SAID HE WANTED TO MEET UP, CAN YOU BE-LIEVE IT?
AND THEE EEN
ABOUT HE FIRE-WOR—

RING-A-LING
Let me answer this
AH, SORRY.
ガタ
はた。
He's using the strap!

WAS I SEEN?!
Just her imagination
Staaare
I-IS THIS A CHANCE?!
IF I DRINK... JUST A LITTLE...
thump
thump
...!!!
Ah,
IF I just quickly switch straws with him!
CHANGE!
IT ACTUALLY WASN'T AN IMPORTANT CALL AFTER ALL...
Sorry for making you wait
AND MY TIME'S UP!!!
Wha-
What else has touched his lips?

MY MOM WANTED ME TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER ON THE WAY HOME...
His hand is touching
his lips...
Oh, SPEAKING OF WHICH...

I'm sorry...
For acting so weird...
I guess since it's been a while.. I'm feeling really nervous...
What am I doing, trying to grab his hand?
I THOUGHT MY TEA WAS THAT WAY!!
Wants to cry
I'M REALLY NERVOUS TOO.
...SAME GOES FOR ME
EH?

I SEE.
Um
I HEARD FROM OTOGI
THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY.
!
I was about to suggest the same thing
Really? It's the same again!!
IF IT'S OKAY...
CAN ALL OF US GO TO-GETHER?!
Zoom

Inviting you three to watch fireworks
I MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH MY GOAL FOR TODAY, WHAT A RELIEF.
HAA
Thank you for coming!
GOAL...
INDIRECT KISS
Gasp
That's an indirect kiss, isn't it?
Well.. we were facing each other, so some of his saliva must have flown across into my mouth when we were talking..
Re-assuring herself
But...
The whole time today... I could only think about such dirty things...
HERE YOU GO!!

WE'RE GIVING OUT FREE SAMPLES OF OUR NEW FLAVORS RIGHT NOW!
Please try them!
AH.
AH.
Whoosh
Whoosh
IT TASTES GOOD, IT'S FREE, IT'S JUST WONDERFUL!
IT SURE IS
WAH, IT'S DELICIOUS!

DO YOU WANT TO TRY THIS FLAVOR TOO?
OH~
YES, I WANT TO TRY...
it...
THIS IS A...
IT'S REALLY CREAMY AND THE TASTE IS GREAT.

Thump
Thump
YE-
YEAH...
Thump
?
H-He's so casual about it... am I overthinking things? Aaah, if I take too long things will get awkward!
H... Here goes!

SO?
IS IT GOOD?
....
It's...
good...

.....
Touch

That was an indirect kiss, wasn't it?
Realized at that moment
!!
Am I doing ...?!
What...
And all I said was, "Is it good?" Gaaaah!
Sigh
That ice cream...
I can't even remember what flavor it was...